

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03
SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
SY-05 DEAE-00 INR-07 L-03 /056 W
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P R 071013Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 888
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 7557

FOR: D/HA/ORM, DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER ADDRESSEES

HONG KONG FOR DIDIR INS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, TH
SUBJ: SCRP VESSEL ACTIVITIES - LEAP DAL

REF: A. BANGKOK 6549 B. STATE 072079 C. SINGAPORE 1437
D. BANGKOK 7453

EMBASSY'S BEST EFFORTS TO RESEARCH THE 250 PLUS PERSONS ABOARD THE
LEAP DAL BASED ON A NAME LIST PROVIDED BY THE UNHCR A D A CROSS
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CHECK WITH EXISTING EMBASSY REFUGEE RECORDS HAVE PRODUCED THE
FOLLOWING RESULTS:

1. THE TOTAL GROUP IS COMPRISED OF SEVENTY (70) FAMILY UNITS
CONSISTING OF TWO-HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (253) INDIVIDUALS
SUBDIVIDED BY NATIONALITY GROUPS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. LAO 41 FAMILIES 207 PERSONS
- B. KHMER 22 FAMILIES 31 PERSONS
- C. VIETNAMESE 7 FAMILIES 15 PERSONS

2. WHILE MOST OF THE LAO LISTED DATE OF ESCAPE AS LATE 1976, MOST OF THE KHMER LISTED APRIL 1975. THE VIETNAMESE INTERESTINGLY, WITH ONLY TWO EXCEPTIONS, LISTED NO DATE OF ESCAPE.

3. UNHCR/BANGKOK HAS RECORDS OF THE FOLLOWING AS HAVING REGISTERED WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS:

- A. LAO 7 FAMILIES 38 PERSONS (NONGKHAI AND UBOL)
 - B. KHMER 10 FAMILIES 10 PERSONS (CHANTHABURIWL)
 - C. VIETNAMESE 0 FAMILIES 0 PERSONS
 - D. TOTAL 17 FAMILIES 48 PERSTNS
- (FYI: MCARTHUR MARCH 24, 1977 LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE STATES 51 PERSONS HAD BEEN REGISTERED WITH UNHCR).

4. WHILE MOST OF THE LAO APPEAR TO BE RECENT ESCAPEES WHO ARRIVED LONG AFTER THE CLOSE OF CAMP INTERVIEWS FOR THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM ON JUNE 30, 1976, DOSSIERS FOR TWO CASES INTERVIEWED AND DENIED BY INS IN THE NONGKHAI REFUGEE CAMP IN MAY 1976 WERE LOCATED. CONSULAR SECTION'S REFUGEE OFFICER REMEMBERS BOTH CASES AS BEING ANXIOUS TO RESETTLE IN THE U.S. AS BOTH HAD SELF-GENERATED SPONSORSHIP OFFERS.

A. CASE OF BOUATHONG VONGMANY (M) - FAMILY OF NINE (9)

1. BOUATHONG, ETHNIC CHINESE, HAS A SISTER IN THE U.S. IN
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INDEFINITE VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE IMMIGRATION STATUS. SHE IS THEREFORE UNABLE TO CONFER EPP CATEGORY I ELIGIBILITY ON HER REFUGEE RELATIVES. PRINCIPAL APPLICANT OWNED CONSTRUCTION FIRM WHICH USG CONTRACTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS IN LAOS. HE HAD LIVED IN THAILAND FOR 10 YEAR PERIOD 1948-1958. INS OFFICER DID NOT CONSIDER BOUATHONG TO BE A VERY STRONG CATEGORY THREE CASE AND DENIED PAROLE ON BASIS THAT FAMILY COULD RESETTLE IN THAILAND DUE TO HUSBAND'S PAST 10 YEAR RESIDE CE. BOUATHONG APPEALED CASE TO SECOND INS OFFICER IN JUNE 1976 BUT DENIAL WAS UPHELD. SPOUSE, VIENGNGEUN VONGPHASOUK, HAS PERMANENT RESIEENT ALIEN COUSIN IN U.S. POST NOTES THAT WHEREAS FAMILY CONSISTED OF NINE (9) PERSONS IN U.S. REGISTRATION TAKEN AT NONGKHAI IN 1976, LEAP DAL REGISTRATION INCLUDES ADDITION OF ELDERLY WOMAN, PROBABLY MOTHER OF BOUATHONG, FOR A TOTAL OF TEN (10) PERSONS. SUBSTITUTION OF ONE (1) OTHER TEEN-AGE FAMILY MEMBER IS ALSO NOTED BETWEEN NONGKHAI AND SINGAPORE REGISTRATIONS. INDIVIDUALS GREATLY DIS-TRAUGHT ABOUT BEING DENIED PAROLE TO THE U.S.

B. CASE OF KHAMSONE (M) - FAMILY OF SEVEN (7)

1. KHAMSONE, ALSO ETHNIC CHINESE, HAS NO KNOWN BLOOD RELATIVES IN THE U.S., ONLY CLOSE FRIENDS. HIS OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY CONSISTS OF BEING A MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC, WATCH REPAIRMAN, COOK, AND DRIVER. HE CLEARLY DID NOT QUALIFY FOR PAROLE TO THE U.S. UNDER ANY OF THE THREE EPP CRITERIA. POST NOTES DISCREPANCY BETWEEN NONGKHAI U.S. REGISTRATION OF SEVEN (7) PERSONS AND

SINGAPORE REGISTRATION OF ONLY THREE (3) PERSONS. APPLICANT HAS APPARENTLY LEFT WIFE AND CHILDREN BEHIND IN THAILAND AND EMBARKED ON LEAP DAL ADVENTURE WITH TWO SINGLE MALES WHO COULD BE BROTHERS. APPLICANT, WE RECALL, WAS ALSO UPSET ABOUT BEING LEFT BEHIND IN THAILAND AFTER U.S. PAROLE DENIED IN 1976.

5. ONLY ONE OTHER LEAP DAL PASSENGER, IN ADDITION TO CASE PARA 4-A ABOVE, CLAIMS TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE RELATIVE IN THE U.S. OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE QUALIFYING CATEGORY I TYPE. U.S. IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THAT RELATIVE IS INKNOWN.

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SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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6. WHEREAS REF C PARA 3 STATES THAT SOME REFUGEES ABOARD LEAP DAL MAY HAVE BEEN FORMER USG EMPLOYEES, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT ANY WILL PROVE TO BE SO. EMBASSY HAS KEPT DETAILED RECORDS OF POST 30 JUNE 1976 ESCAPEES WHO CLEARLY QUALIFY UNDER EPP CATEGORY II (FORMER USG EMPLOYEES) AND FINDS NONE OF THE LEAP DAL PASSENGERS AMONG THEIR NAMES.

7. GIVEN THE OCCUPATIONS LISTED ON THE SINGAPORE REGISTRATIONS, EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT FEW, IF ANY, WOULD QUALIFY UNDER EPP CATEGORY III.

8. ONE CASE ABOARD LEAP DAL, A VIETNAMESE BORN I CAMBODIA, LE DUONG SAM ATH, WHO WAS REGISTERED WITH UNHCR IN A CONFIDENTIAL

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CHATHABURI CAMP, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN SWITZERLAND. HE APPARENTLY DEPARTED THAILAND ABOARD THE LEAP DAL UNAWARE OF THIS ACCEPTANCE. UNHCR INFORMS US THAT SWISS ACCEPTANCE IS STILL OPEN.

9. CLEARLY OVER FIFTY (50) PER CENT OF THE 207 LAO INDICATE THEY ARE FROM SOUTHERN LAOS, SPECIFICALLY SAVANNAKHET AND PAKSE. CONSULAR SECTION'S REFUGEE OFFICER WHO WAS STATIONED IN THOSE TOWNS FOR THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS AS USAID REFUGEE OFFICER BELIEVES MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THIS GROUP, WILL PROVE TO BE SINO-LAO OF THE MERCHANT/ARTISAN CLASS. GIVEN THEIR LATE ESCAPE FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE U.S. PROGRAM AND THE KNOWN FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT SINO-INDOCHINESE, THIS LATTER CATEGORY APPEAR TO BE PRIME TARGETS FOR EXPLOITATION BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LEAP DAL FIASCO. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THIS GROUP WERE BORN IN THAILAND BUT SETTLED IN LAOS. IT HAS NOT BEEN UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE BORN ON EITHER SIDE OF MEKONG RIVER TO POSSESS IDENTITY PAPERS FOR BOTH THAILAND AND LAOS.

10. WHILE EMBASSY IS SYMPATHETIC TO PLIGHT OF LEAP DAL REFUGEES, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THEIR VOLUNTARY DECISION TO BOARD THE LEAP DAL IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME ELIGIBLE AS "BOAT CASES" SHOULD NOW BE REWARDED. UNHCR/BANGKOK ALSO AGREES THAT GRANTING THIS GROUP DE FACTO BOAT CASE STATUS CAN ONLY SERVE TO PRECIPITATE OTHER ATTEMPTS. IN SUM, TO CONFER CE STATUS ON THESE CASES WHILE OTHERS WHO HAVE A LEGITIMATE CLAIM UPON U.S. ASSISTANCE LANGUISH IN REFUGEE CENTERS SEEMS PATENTLY, UNFAIR.
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Message Attributes

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